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Preston Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1957

Preston Rural District Council



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Additional Public Health Inspectors :

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To the Chairman and Members of the Preston District Rural Council

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration the Annual Report on the health, sanitary conditions and circumstances of the Preston Rural District for the year ending 31st December, 1957, together with the vital statistics relative to that period

Vital statistics related to England and Wales, no longer issued by the Registrar-General, have again been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health, enabling a comparison with national figures to be made.

Once again, there was a substantial increase in the estimated population of the rural district, the figure of 40,140 being 760 greater than that for the previous year. This is the first time the 40,000 mark has been exceeded, though this milestone would have been reached some years ago, but for the population loss incurred when the boundaries of the Preston C.B. were extended in 1952 and 1956. The increase in population over the past five years has been entirely due to immigration, as there has been no natural increase, viz. an excess of live births over deaths. Private housing development, principally in the parish of Penwortham, has been the main reason for the population movement into the rural district, though the erection by the Council of houses for overspill population from the Preston C.B. has given impetus to this trend. The demand for owner-occupied houses continues unabated, and as the Council already has further houses under construction for overspill purposes, another substantial increase in the population can be anticipated for the year 1958. If the deaths which occurred in the Ribchester and Whittingham Hospitals are ignored, there was a natural increase in the population of 126.

More live births were registered in 1957 compared with any year in the last decade, the total of 583 being 25 greater than that for the previous year, and representing a crude rate of 14.5 per 1,000 of the estimated population. This rate, when adjusted to take into account the age structure of the population and render it comparable with the crude rate of 16.1 for the whole country, is greater than the latter by 1.3 per 1,000. Stillbirths numbered 13 or one less than in 1956, and the rate per 1,000 total births fell from 24 in the previous year to 22, and was almost identical with the rate for England and Wales. Illegitimate live births were doubled compared with the figure for 1956 rising from 10 to 20, and this is the highest figure recorded since 1948.

Mortality from all causes was most unfavourable compared with previous figures, and altogether 638 deaths were recorded. The crude death rate at 15.9 per 1,000 of the estimated population was the highest rate since 1918. This can be attributed to the 181 deaths which occurred in the Ribchester and Whittingham Hospitals representing 28 per cent. of the total deaths. Heart disease in all its forms continued as the major cause of death, but there was an ominous change in the order of importance of principal causes of death, cancer now taking second place instead of vascular lesions of the nervous system. Although in 1957 the number of deaths from malignant neoplasm of the uterus remained the same as the figures for the previous year, increases occurred in the numbers of deaths classified to all the remaining forms. In particular, the annual rise in lung cancer was maintained, so that the 15 deaths ascribed to this cause represented an increase of 36 per cent. over the figure for 1956. The figure of infant deaths at 11 remained the same as the figure for the previous year, but when set against the higher total of live births registered, did, in fact, produce a reduced death-rate, viz. 19 per 1,000 live births, the lowest figure on record, and well below the rates for the

Administrative County and England and Wales. 81 per cent. of all infant deaths occurred under the age of four weeks. There were two deaths from maternal causes. Deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system at seven have remained constant over the past four years, but the death-rate fell from 0.18 per 1,000 of the estimated population in 1956 to 0.17 per 1,000 compared with 0.09 for England and Wales. Four of the deaths were related to inmates of the Whittingham Hospital. One death occurred under the heading of non-respiratory tuberculosis. Since institution deaths have had to be accepted as belonging to the rural district, all mortality rates, with the obvious exception of those rates related to infant and maternal mortality, have exceeded national figures.

Once again, the rural district was entirely free of smallpox, enteric fever, diphtheria and poliomyelitis. There was a substantial reduction in the number of notified cases of scarlet fever, whooping cough, dysentery and food poisoning, and, in fact, the only adverse feature of the notifiable diseases was the continued epidemic form of measles. There was, however, the epidemic of influenza which swept the country, and no doubt, it caused a short interval of distress to many people, but fatalities were few. There is no doubt that overall the residents of the rural district enjoyed a high standard of health during the period under review.

During 1957, the staff of the department were, to say the least, extremely active, fulfilling numerous duties covering all aspects of environmental public health, but in particular their work was concentrated on such matters as new sewerage schemes, slum clearance, food hygiene, and pest control on agricultural land. It is the latter to which I should like to draw attention, and it is rat infestation on which I comment. The rat is a filthy and destructive creature and a conveyor of disease. It was in 1956 that the Council decided to inaugurate a complete inspectorial system of agricultural land and a treatment service for any occupier who wished to take advantage of it. The service has operated in close liaison with the contract service provided by the Lancashire Agricultural Executive Committee, and the Divisional Rodent Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has supplied immediate information of outbreaks of fowl pest in the rural district with which the rat is believed to be closely associated. On the average three to four visits were made to each agricultural unit during the first 12 months the scheme was in force, and in addition to treating many infestations on the request of occupiers, each person interviewed was advised to keep warfarin in stock and to use it at the first sign of infestation. This method of approach, suggesting independent action, helped to promote co-operation between the farmers and the local authority. Everyone was made fully aware of the fact that the rat is an expensive visitor, and it is a more economical proposition to bear the cost of extermination than simply to put up with him. As far as this rural district is concerned, the rat cannot now regard the farm as home from home. The number of infestations being reported is growing less month by month, and it is hoped that the reduction in the rat population which this suggests will result in a reduced incidence of fowl pest in the future, though it must be pointed out that the rat is not the only agent of transmission.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued confidence and support, and to pay tribute to the staff of the department for the manner in which they have carried out their duties. I am especially grateful to Mr. Young and Mr. Collier for their valuable collaboration, which greatly lightened my labours.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS for the year 1957

With the kind permission of Dr. V. Barocas, Director of the Jeremiah Horrocks Observatory, Moor Park, Preston, I submit extracts from his report on local meteorological conditions which prevailed during 1957.

The year 1957 has been a wet and mild one in Preston.

The total rainfall for the year was 41.47 inches, an increase of 3.91 inches on the average for the year.

The seasons followed the average pattern for Preston, with spring being the driest and summer the wettest season. However, the spring in 1957 was drier than usual, the total rainfall in this period being only 9.9% of the total for the year as compared with the average of 19.1%. On the other hand, summer, with 40.6% of the total rainfall for the year, was well above the average of 29.9%.

Winter and autumn each had a total rainfall which was slightly below the average.

The number of rain-days during the year (195) and the number of wet-days with precipitation above 0.04 inch (153) were normal for Preston.

Little flooding occurred, as is shown by the relatively low number of days when the ground was wet.

Two rain spells were recorded, the first from January 20th to February 16th and the second from October 15th to November 5th.

The wettest month of the year was September, with a total rainfall of 6.59 inches, 3.06 inches above average. The wettest day of the year was December 31st, when 1.99 inches of rain fell. On two occasions we had continuous rain for periods of over 24 hours. These were on September 16th-17th, when it rained for 25 hours, and on December 31st-January 1st, when it rained continuously for 32 hours.

Other wet days with rainfall above 1 inch were September 16th with 1.07 inches, October 28th with 1.30 inches, and October 29th with 1.31 inches.

The driest month of the year was April, during which only 0.42 inch was recorded. This was the driest April on record since 1893. It was in April that an absolute drought occurred, lasting from April 23rd to May 7th. Apart from this we had a partial drought from November 6th to December 5th, and two dry spells, the first from March 30th to April 15th and the second from November 6th to November 20th.

No wet spell was actually recorded during 1957.

The average temperature for 1957 as a whole was 1°F. higher than average. The year has been a mild one, and the lowest minimum recorded was 20.9°F. on December 15th, a minimum considerably higher than in previous years.

The coldest month of the year was December with an average temperature of 40.5°F. Usually the coldest month in Preston is January, but in 1957 January was 3.3°F. higher than average and 1.4°F. higher than December.

The warmest month of the year was, as usual, July, with an average temperature of 60.1°F. However, in 1957, July was a little cooler than average.

The hottest day of the year was June 6th, when 81.3°F. were recorded.

When we consider the individual months, we find that January, February, March, April, October, November and December were all warmer than average, and in particular March had a temperature 7.2°F. higher than normal. May, June, July, August, September were cooler than average, and September was 2.1°F. below normal.

In 1957 the relative humidity was lower than average. On many occasions the relative humidity was very low. Dry air was recorded on 18 days, 2 in April, 6 in May, and 10 in June. In June we had a period of unusual low relative humidity from June 10th to June 21st. The lowest reading recorded in this period was 35% on June 15th.

Ground frost occurred on 83 nights, compared with 99 in 1956 and 114 in 1955. It was recorded this year as late as June 23rd.

The lowest ground temperature recorded during the year was 13.1°F. on December 15th.

Air frost occurred on 36 days compared with 61 in 1956 and 88 in 1955.

On no day throughout the year was the maximum temperature below freezing.

Winds were mainly southerly during the year, and on many occasions we had calm days. Only nine gales were recorded in Preston, and of these three caused structural damage in the town and uprooted trees in Moor Park.

The average barometric pressure for the year was higher than normal.

OTHER PHENOMENA

Little snow fell in 1957 and on no occasion was it recorded as lying on the ground at 09.00 G.M.T.

Hail was recorded only on eight days. Thunder was heard on 22 occasions.

Visibility during the year was generally good. Fog at 09.00 G.M.T. was observed on 32 days; of these, only two were classified as thick fog (visibility less than 44 yards).

On six days we had excellent visibility at 09.00 G.M.T. Abnormal visibility during the day was recorded on 27 occasions.

The Moor Park pond was frozen on nine days, four in February and five in December, as compared with 36 days in 1956.

Soft rime was observed once in February.

The optical phenomena observed during the year consisted of 56 solar and five lunar halos; 24 solar and 27 lunar coronæ and six rainbows, four of which were double rainbows.

Some of the meteorological observations for 1957 are summarised in the tables which follow:

EXTREMES OF TEMPERATURE

	Highest Maximum				Lowest Minimum				Lowest Maximum				Highest Minimum			
	Temp		Date		Temp		Date		Temp		Date		Temp		Date	
Month	°F				°F				°F				°F			
January	57	...	4	...	27	...	11	...	38	...	14	...	45	...	22	
February	53	...	4	...	22	...	20	...	42	...	15	...	44	...	8	
March	67	...	12	...	33	...	3	...	47	...	4	...	55	...	12	
April	62	...	23	...	29	...	13	...	48	...	12	...	48	...	4	
May	66	...	24	...	29	..	6	...	48	...	7	...	50	...	13	
June	81	...	16	...	37	..	23	...	55	...	7	...	62	...	29	
July	81	...	6	...	46	...	16	...	58	...	13	...	63	...	7	
August	76	...	2	...	41	...	29	...	58	...	15	...	60	...	9	
September	65	...	3	...	34	...	30	...	53	...	24	...	56	...	18	
October	65	...	8	...	33	...	1	...	52	...	19	...	54	...	16	
November	53	...	1	...	26	...	7	...	45	...	15	...	49	...	28	
December	56	...	20	...	21	...	15	...	38	...	15 & 16	...	45	..	8	
Year	81.3		16 June		20.9		15 Dec.		37.9		15, 16 Dec.		62.5		7 July	

RAINFALL AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Month	Total Rainfall inches		Difference from average inches		No. of Days			Wettest Days			Vapour Pressure in mbs.	Relative Humidity % satur.				
					Rain Days	Wet Days		Fall Inch	Date							
January	...	2.99	...	−0.26	...	21	...	17	...	0.50	...	21	...	7.9	...	86.9
February	...	2.58	...	+0.15	...	20	...	17	...	0.45	...	23	...	7.3	...	88.9
March	...	2.99	...	+0.63	...	18	...	15	...	0.48	...	15	...	9.6	...	84.4
April	...	0.42	...	−1.68	...	7	...	3	...	0.22	...	17	...	8.6	...	74.7
May	...	2.21	...	−0.26	...	12	...	9	...	0.61	...	14	...	9.5	...	71.3
June	...	1.48	...	−1.18	...	10	...	6	...	0.43	...	3	...	11.8	...	66.7
July	...	5.07	...	+1.64	...	20	...	16	...	0.95	...	12	...	15.0	...	82.7
August	...	5.18	...	+0.97	...	19	...	17	...	0.92	...	10	...	14.5	...	82.6
September	...	6.59	...	+3.06	...	22	...	18	...	1.07	...	16	...	12.0	...	83.1
October	...	6.15	...	+2.30	...	20	...	16	...	1.31	...	29	...	11.2	...	87.6
November	...	1.27	...	−2.35	...	9	...	6	...	0.30	...	4	...	8.4	...	85.2
December	...	4.54	...	+0.89	...	17	...	13	...	1.99	...	31	...	7.4	...	86.1
Year	...	41.47	...	+3.91	...	195	...	153	...	1.99	31 Dec.	...	10.3	...	81.7	

VISIBILITY AT 09.00 G.M.T.

Number of Days

Month	Dense Fog		Thick Fog		Mod. Fog		Mist or Haze		Poor Visi-bility		Mod. Visi-bility		Good Visi-bility		Very Good Vis.		Excel. Visi-bility	
January	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	4	...	4	...	9	...	7	...	4	...	0
February	...	0	...	2	...	0	...	5	...	7	...	9	...	5	...	0	...	0
March	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	4	...	18	...	7	...	0	...	0
April	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	6	...	8	...	4	...	0
May	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	2	...	5	...	11	...	7	...	3
June	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	3	...	7	...	4	...	16
July	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	6	...	14	...	7	...	4
August	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	4	...	15	...	4	...	8
September	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	2	...	7	...	7	...	3	...	9
October	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	4	...	7	...	10	...	2	...	4	...	2
November	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	4	...	2	...	7	...	7	...	0	...	9
December	...	0	...	0	...	2	...	7	...	7	...	4	...	5	...	2	...	4
Year	...	0	...	2	...	4	...	26	...	36	...	88	...	95	...	39	...	69

WEATHER

Number of Days

Month	Snow or Sleet		Snow Lying at 0900 G.M.T		Hail	Thunder heard		Fog at 0900 G.M.T.	Gale Wind- force 8 or above	Ground Frost	Air Frost					
January	...	5	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	5	...	0	...	14	...	8
February	...	4	...	0	...	2	...	0	...	7	...	1	...	15	...	11
March	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	1	...	6	...	0
April	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	12	...	2
May	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	5	...	0	...	0	...	4	...	1
June	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	2	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	0
July	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	6	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0
August	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	5	...	0	...	2	...	0	...	0
September	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	2	...	0
October	...	0	...	0	...	3	...	1	...	4	...	0	...	5	...	0
November	...	0	...	0	...	2	...	1	...	5	...	1	...	9	...	5
December	...	3	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	9	...	2	...	15	...	9
Year	...	13	...	0	...	8	...	22	...	32	...	9	...	83	...	36

Physical Features of the Area

The Rural District is largely a lowland area, mainly below 250 feet, lying largely to the north of the River Ribble, but with considerable extensions south of the river, south-west and east of Preston. In the extreme north of the district the land rises rapidly to 874 feet at Beacon Fell, and in the east heights of over a thousand feet are attained on the southern slopes of Longridge Fell. North of Preston the drainage is largely eastwards to the River Wyre, while the rest of the district drains directly or indirectly into the Ribble.

The solid geological formations represented in the district are the Carboniferous Limestone, Millstone Grit, Bunter Sandstone and Keuper Marl. These formations are rarely seen at the surface, however, because they are buried beneath a thick cover of "drift" deposits. Apart from the valley alluvium of the rivers and streams and the raised terraces along the Ribble and Darwen, the "drift" is composed of glacial boulder clay, sand and gravel.

The latter occur only as impersistent patches on the boulder clay, such as that to the north-east of Goosnargh, or is exposed in the sides of the many stream valleys. Boulder clay covers most of the district, and in general gives rise to a heavy clay soil. The numerous marl pits which were dug many years ago to obtain material to lighten the soil are a characteristic feature of boulder clay areas. The heavy clay soils provide excellent pastures which support dairy herds, and arable farming is of lesser importance. Poultry farming is widespread, as it is throughout the whole of the Fylde area.

The solid rocks have little effect on the physical features of the area because of the thick drift cover. Over much of the area this thick cover renders it impossible to determine with any degree of accuracy the nature and structure of the underlying rocks unless borings are undertaken. In the extreme north and east of the district, however, the solid formations outcrop at the surface. These outcrops belong to the Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit formations. The former is the oldest formation represented in the district, but here it does not carry the massive limestone beds so characteristic of others areas, e.g., Clitheroe. It is composed of a thick

series of shales with thin limestones, the Worston Shales and the Pendleside Limestone series which underlie the greater part of the parishes of Goosnargh, Whittingham and Houghton. Towards the top of the latter there is a rather thicker limestone bed, the Pendleside Limestone, which occurs on the northern flanks of Longridge Fell. The top of the Carboniferous Limestone is formed by the Lower Bowland Shales, which contain a fairly characteristic grit band, the Pendleside Grit. These occur on Beacon Fell and Longridge Fell. The Millstone Grit is represented by a series of grits and shales. The lowest beds are the Upper Bowland Shales, which are succeeded by the massive Pendle Grit. This latter forms the conspicuous features of Beacon Fell and Longridge Fell, and, together with the overlying shales and grits, underlie the parishes of Hothersall, Ribchester and Dutton. Millstone Grit shales and grits are present beneath the "drift" in the southern part of the parish of Samlesbury, and the north-east part of Grimsargh parish. The grits in this area have not been tried as a source of water supply, so the potentiality of water bores is not known. Results from boring in grits vary considerably according to the nature of the grit and its openness of grain and extent of the jointing and fissuring.

West of the Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit occurs the Triassic Bunter Sandstone, a fairly hard red, yellow or buff-coloured sandstone. The details of structure and the position of faults are only assumed, but the following picture has been obtained by the study of available bore records. The Bunter Sandstone is faulted against or overlies the most steeply dipping Carboniferous Limestone shales, and the Millstone Grit to the east and south-east. The sandstone dips gently to the north-west and occurs beneath the drift in the parishes of Barton, Woodplumpton, Lea, Hutton, Penwortham, Cuerdale, the south-west part of the parish of Grimsargh and the north-west part of Samlesbury parish. It is affected by strong faults, the exact positions of which are difficult to determine. The Bunter Sandstone is an excellent source of underground water, and there are several private water wells in Preston which draw on this source. It is probable that further supplies could be obtained north of Preston, but care would be needed in the siting of the wells.

Keuper Marl, thinly bedded, fine grained red marls with bands and patches of green-coloured marls and thin bands of fine grained sandstone or "skerries," are present beneath the boulder clay in the parishes of Longton, Little Hoole, Much Hoole and Farington. The beds dip north-westwards and are separated from the Bunter Sandstone to the north by a fault. Borings in Keuper Marl give little or no water, and that which is obtained is too highly mineralised to be of use for public supply.

General Statistics

STATISTIC AND GENERAL SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

- (1) Area in acres—49,758.
- (2) Population (Census 1951)—37,655.
- (3) Registrar-General estimate of home population, 1957—40,140.
- (4) Number of inhabited houses (Census 1951)—10,334.
- (5) Number of inhabited houses end of 1957, according to Rate Books—12,002.
- (6) Rateable value, 1st April, 1957—£393,203.
- (7) Sum represented by a penny rate—£1,649 (1st April, 1957, estimated).

The Rural District, which is mainly agricultural, consists chiefly of pleasant, undulating country, dotted here and there with patches of woodland, and watered by innumerable brooks.

Dairy farming, poultry farming, market gardening, cotton manufacture, paper manufacture and engineering comprise the main industries. The employment available is of a healthy character, and there was little evidence of unemployment among the inhabitants of the district in 1957.

There are facilities for religious worship, according to denomination, throughout the district, and several parishes have Village Halls and/or Women's Institutes. In addition, there are clubs, based upon religious, political or recreational groups, and in these places, particularly in the winter months, lectures, concerts, dramatic society meetings, plays, debates and dances are held.

Golf courses are situated at Penwortham and Lea. There are cricket grounds at New Longton, Penwortham and Whittingham. Facilities for tennis, football and bowls are available, and Playing Fields have been provided by the Rural District Council in practically all parishes.

There are 35 schools in the area, providing facilities for both primary and secondary education, and the Lancashire County Council provides branches of the County Library mostly in schools and village halls throughout the district.

POPULATION OF THE RURAL DISTRICT

The Registrar-General's estimate of home population of the Rural District as at 30th June, 1957, was 40,140, an increase of 760 compared with the estimate of 39,380 for the previous year.

Estimates of home population include members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area and merchant seamen, whether at home or overseas, but exclude members of the Armed Forces stationed outside England and Wales, and non-civilians of foreign countries, Dominions, etc., temporarily in the country.

The natural increase in the population of the Rural District, i.e., excess of births over deaths, did not materialise by reason of the fact that from the 1st January, 1954, all deaths occurring in the Whittingham Hospital and Ribchester Institution have had to be accepted as belonging to the Rural District. In consequence, deaths exceeded births by 55. The number of persons per acre was 0.80, and the number of acres per person 1.24.

VITAL STATISTICS

PERIOD				LIVE BIRTHS		DEATHS (all causes)		STILL-BIRTHS		MATERNAL MORTALITY		INFANT MORTALITY			
												TOTAL		NEO-NATAL	
				No. Registered	Rate per 1000 Population	No. Registered	Rate per 1000 Population	No. Registered	Rate per 1000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Registered	Rate per 1000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Registered	Rate per 1000 Live Births	No. of Deaths Registered	Rate per 1000 Live Births
Year ...	1957	...		583	*14.5	638	*15.9	13	22	2	3.36	11	19	9	15
Year ...	1956	...		558	14.2	573	14.6	14	24	—	—	11	20	11	20
	1955	...		560	14.3	596	15.2	16	28	—	—	12	21	9	16
	1954	...		480	12.4	574	14.8	5	10	—	—	12	25	7	15
	1953	...		541	14.1	546	14.2	15	27	—	—	20	37	16	30
	1952	...		485	12.6	401	10.4	12	24	—	—	11	23	9	19
Average 5 years : 1952 — 1956				—	13.5	—	13.8	—	22	—	—	—	25	—	20

* Adjusted (live birth-rate ; comparability factor, 1.20) = 17.4 per 1,000
 (death-rate ; comparability factor, 0.83) = 13.2 per 1,000

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

LIVE BIRTHS. The statistics with regard to both births and deaths have again been supplied by the Registrar-General through the County Public Health Department. The number of births and deaths referred to in this report are those registered during the calendar year, corrected for "inward" and "outward" transfers.

According to the Registrar-General, the total births registered in or belonging to the Rural Area during the year 1957 number 583 (males 302, females 281); 25 more than in the year 1956.

The live birth-rate for the Rural District, calculated on the estimated home population, corresponds to 14.5 per 1,000. Last year the rate was 14.2. The adjusted birth-rate, using the comparability factor supplied by the Registrar-General is 17.4. The live birth-rate for England and Wales for the year 1957 was 16.1.

The sex distribution of the children born alive during 1957 is shown below. For comparative purposes, the figures for each of the previous post-war years are also given :

Year	Males	Females	Total
1946	299	260	559
1947	319	311	630
1948	289	257	546
1949	281	299	580
1950	275	292	567
1951	260	238	498
1952	239	246	485
1953	270	271	541
1954	257	223	480
1955	282	278	560
1956	280	278	558
1957	302	281	583

The excess of births over deaths in the Rural District in each of the 10 years, 1948-1957, is shown below :

EXCESS OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS

Year 1948	185	Year 1953	Nil
„ 1949	179	„ 1954	Nil
„ 1950	106	„ 1955	Nil
„ 1951	25	„ 1956	Nil
„ 1952	84	„ 1957	Nil

The figure for 1957 is in fact minus 55 for the reason stated on the previous page. However, if the deaths assignable to the Rural District from the Whittingham Hospital are deducted from the total deaths, the excess of births over deaths is 126, which, compared with the period 1950-52, is favourable. The figures for 1956, 1955, 1954, 1953 were 121, 128, 83, 170.

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS. The number of births of illegitimate children belonging to the Rural District and registered during 1957 compared with that for each of the previous post-war years is shown overleaf :

Year	No. of illegitimate live births	Decrease or increase on previous year	Percentage of total live births
1946	23	-9	4.1
1947	17	-6	2.7
1948	25	+8	4.5
1949	19	-6	3.2
1950	8	-11	1.4
1951	16	+8	3.2
1952	13	-3	2.7
1953	12	-1	2.2
1954	5	-7	1.0
1955	16	+11	2.8
1956	10	-6	1.8
1957	20	+10	3.4

The number of illegitimate live births at 20 was five above the average for the post-war years and ten above the figure for the previous year. The tendency in the Administrative County during the post-war years 1946-54 has been one of continual decline, but the figures for 1955 and 1956 reversed this trend.

STILLBIRTHS. The number of registered stillbirths assigned to the Rural District during 1957 was thirteen (nine males, four females) or one less than in the previous year. The resultant rate was 22 per 1,000 total births. Expressed per 1,000 of the estimated home population, the Rural District rate was 0.32 compared with a rate for England and Wales of 0.37.

DEATHS. The net deaths actually belonging to the Preston Rural District for the year 1957 numbered 638 (males 315, females 323). This total includes deaths of persons belonging to the Rural District who died outside the District, and of persons who died in the Whittingham Hospital and Ribchester Institution, irrespective of their home address.

The death-rate for the Rural District, calculated on a home population of 40,140, is 15.9 per 1,000. Last year the death-rate was 14.6. The average death-rate for the five years 1952-1956 was 13.8.

Once again the Registrar-General has supplied a comparability factor for adjusting local death-rates. This factor takes into account the varying population constitution, including sex and age distribution, to make every district comparative from the mortality point of view with the crude death-rate of the country as a whole, or with similarly adjusted death-rates for other areas. The adjusted death-rate using the comparability factor is 13.2 per 1,000, as against last year's adjusted rate of 12.1.

The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales in 1957 was 11.5 per 1,000 home population.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH. Reference was made in the 1951 report to the adoption by the World Health Organisation of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists of Diseases and Causes of Death and the 1950 introduction by the Registrar-General of a new Short List of 36 Causes of Death. The absence

of any guidance from the Registrar-General as to the effect of the new classification on certain specific causes of death has left in doubt the validity of a comparison between mortality from such causes in the period prior to, and that in the period after, the revision. In certain instances, therefore, no attempt has been made in the following paragraphs to compare the mortality of the year under report with any year prior to 1950.

The relative importance of the principal causes of death is shown in the following table :

Cause of death	No. of deaths	Percentage of total deaths
Heart disease (all forms)	214	33.0
Cancer (including Hodgkin's disease, leukæmia and aleukæmia)	108	16.9
Vascular lesions of nervous system	105	16.4
Pneumonia, Bronchitis and Influenza	44	7.0
Violence (including all Accidents, Suicide and Homicide)	30	4.7
Other circulatory disease	18	2.8
Tuberculosis (all forms)	8	1.2

HEART DISEASES. From 1950 particulars of deaths from the various heart diseases have been sub-divided into three groups—"coronary disease, angina," "hypertension with heart disease," and "other heart disease." The deaths classified to these causes and assigned to the Rural District in 1957 and the preceding year, together with the equivalent mortality rates, are set out below :

Classification	No. of deaths		Death-rate per 1,000 estimated home population	
	1956	1957	1956	1957
Coronary disease, angina	66	79	1.67	1.96
Hypertension with heart disease	21	19	0.53	0.47
Other heart disease	118	116	2.99	2.89
Heart disease—all forms	205	214	5.20	5.33

The 214 fatalities from heart disease represented an increase of nine compared with the previous year, the resultant rate of 5.33 being 0.13 per 1,000 of population above that for 1956.

MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, INCLUDING NEOPLASMS OF LYMPHATIC AND HAEMATOPIETIC TISSUES

This title embraces items 10-15 inclusive of the Short List of 36 Causes of Death as set out on Page 18. It is not exactly comparable with the general title of "cancer" used for statistics prior to 1950 by virtue of the inclusion in it of deaths from Hodgkin's disease, leukæmia and aleukæmia, which were excluded from the latter title. The deaths from the constituent causes assigned to the Rural District in 1957 and the previous year are given overleaf by sex :

Classification	1956			1957		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Stomach	4	2	6	7	10	17
Lung, Bronchus	11	—	11	13	2	15
Breast	—	11	11	—	13	13
Uterus	—	3	3	—	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	29	20	49	30	28	58
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	—	—	—	2	2
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total—all forms	44	36	80	50	58	108
	—	—	—	—	—	—

There was, therefore, an increase in total deaths of 28 compared with 1956. The mortality rate produced by the 108 deaths in 1957 at 2.69 per 1,000 estimated home population represented an increase of 0.66 per 1,000 over the previous year.

VASCULAR LESIONS OF NERVOUS SYSTEM

This condition, like heart disease and cancer, is one which principally affects older people. The 105 deaths ascribed to this condition in 1957 were 10 more than the number for the previous year, and were equivalent to a rate of 2.61 per 1,000 of the estimated home population, compared with that of 2.41 for 1956 and 2.26 for 1955. They amounted to 16.4 per cent. of the total deaths from all causes.

PNEUMONIA, BRONCHITIS AND INFLUENZA

Forty-four deaths were assigned to these causes : Pneumonia 18, Bronchitis 17, and Influenza 9. The number of deaths, taking the causes in the same order, rose by three, two and seven respectively, compared with the previous year. The deaths from influenza, which is not normally a cause of heavy mortality, were more than usual due to the epidemic which swept the administrative county during the latter half of the year, and which was topically described as “Asian Flu.”

VIOLENCE

Deaths from violence are divided into four groups in the Registrar-General's Short List of 36 Causes of Death—motor vehicle accidents, all other accidents, suicide, and homicide and operations of war. There were 12 deaths from motor vehicle accidents, 13 from all other accidents, five deaths from suicide, and none from homicide and operations of war. The deaths attributable to motor vehicle accidents during 1957 were more than in any year since such a cause was specifically classified, and during the past three years almost as many people have committed suicide than in the preceding ten years.

OTHER CIRCULATORY DISEASE

Deaths in 1957 falling within this classification, which covers all diseases of the circulatory system except the heart diseases mentioned earlier, numbered 18, a decrease of seven compared with the total for the previous year. The total of 18 deaths amounted to 2.8 per cent. of the deaths from all causes, and was equivalent to a rate of 0.47 per 1,000 of the estimated home population.

TUBERCULOSIS—Respiratory

The deaths assigned to the Rural District in 1957 as due to tuberculosis of the respiratory system numbered seven, the same as last year, and were equivalent to a death-rate of 0.17 per 1,000 of the estimated home population. The number of deaths has been identical for the past four years.

TUBERCULOSIS—Non respiratory

There was one death during the period under review, equivalent to a mortality rate of 0.02 per 1,000 of the estimated home population. The number of deaths and the death-rate have been identical for the past four years.

The following table shows the net deaths actually belonging to the Rural District for the year 1957, distinguishing males and females, and the causes of death agree with the Short List of 36 Causes of Death based on the Sixth Revision of International Lists (introduced 1950), subject to the amendment that Pneumonia (490-493) now includes also Pneumonia of the newborn (763).

	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	7	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	—
3. Syphilitic disease	5	3
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	10
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	13	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	13
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	30	28
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	2
16. Diabetes	1	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	48	57
18. Coronary disease, angina	53	26
19. Hypertension with heart disease	8	11
20. Other heart disease	37	79
21. Other circulatory disease	10	8
22. Influenza	5	4
23. Pneumonia	13	5
24. Bronchitis	15	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	2	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	4
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	4	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	2
31. Congenital malformations	1	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	32	44
33. Motor vehicle accidents	9	3
34. All other accidents	5	8
35. Suicide	4	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—
ALL CAUSES	315	323

INFANT MORTALITY

The death of infants under the age of one year numbered 11, males six, females five, the same as last year.

Nine of the infant deaths occurred during the first four weeks after birth.

The mortality rate calculated per 1,000 live births was 19, as compared with a rate of 20 in 1956 and 21 in 1955.

The infant death-rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1957 was 23.0.

The following table analyses the causes of death in 1957 of infants at stated age periods :

Causes of Death.	DAYS											MONTHS											Total Deaths under one year
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	14	21-28	28-56	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11-12		
Congenital Malformations	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Post-natal asphyxia and atelectasis	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bronchitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Diseases peculiar to early Infancy	1	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Totals	...	4	...	...	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	11

Of the total deaths at all ages, infant deaths in 1957 formed 1.72 per cent.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY. Once again the Registrar-General has supplied particulars of neo-natal mortality (deaths of infants under four weeks of age) assignable to the rural area. According to the information received, the number of deaths of infants occurring under the age of four weeks and assignable to the Rural District in 1957 was nine, this figure representing 81 per cent. of all infant deaths. The resultant rate was 15 per 1,000 live births. In 1956 this rate was 20, when all the infant deaths occurred under the age of four weeks.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. There were two deaths during 1957 corresponding to a mortality rate of 3.36 per 1,000 total births. Rates of this character, calculated for small areas, are sometimes rather fallacious, and one or two fatalities add very considerably to the death-rate. Only five deaths have occurred from maternal causes in the preceding ten years.

Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases

Infectious cases are removed to the Deepdale Isolation Hospital, Preston. Very little trouble was experienced in getting patients into hospital, and transport arrangements were generally good and expeditious. Disinfection of houses, books, clothes, etc., was always carried out in those cases where it was considered essential.

SMALLPOX

No case of smallpox occurred during 1957, the twenty-eighth successive year for which the Rural District has been entirely free from the disease.

SCARLET FEVER

Notifications of this disease during 1957 numbered 24, and this is the lowest incidence recorded since 1927. Last year there were 70 cases, and in 1955 only 37. The disease took its usual mild course and complications were the exception. Almost all the cases occurred during the first half of the year, and the distribution principally involved the parishes of Goosnargh and Penwortham. All the cases were confined to children, and the attack rate was 0.59 per 1,000 of the estimated home population, compared with 1.77 per 1,000 for the previous year and 0.94 per 1,000 for 1955. Eleven cases were treated in hospital. Particulars of deaths registered as due to scarlet fever have not been provided by the Registrar-General since his adoption of the new Short List of Causes of Death in 1950, but an examination of the death returns including inward transfers received by the department during the year revealed no such cause of death.

DIPHTHERIA

For the seventh consecutive year, this disease has been absent from the Rural District, and there is no reason why this should not be a feature of future reports, so long as parents see that their children are immunised.

WHOOPING COUGH

The number of notified cases of Whooping Cough during 1957 was 45, well below the figure of 79 for the previous year, and below the yearly average since the disease was made compulsory notifiable in 1940. Incidence was most prevalent in the first six months of the year. Though case distribution involved numerous parishes, the principal areas affected were Farington and Longton. No one died from the disease and all the cases were treated at home.

MEASLES

The epidemic which commenced in the fourth quarter of 1956 continued throughout the first eight months of the period under review, and altogether 630 cases were reported. This figure is the highest on record, and the usual epidemic incidence was doubled. Though case distribution involved all the parishes with the exception of Cuerdale and Houghton, the numerical severity of the attack was related to the school children of Lea, Longton and Penwortham. There was no death from the disease and no one required hospital treatment.

DYSENTERY

Thirty-six notifications of dysentery were received; 27 of the people affected were inmates of the Whittingham Hospital, and the usual disease type was "Flexner." The remainder of the cases occurred in private households and constituted nine single cases. Faeces specimens were taken, and in each of the nine cases a negative result was obtained.

ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS

(Post infectious)

There was one case ascertained by unofficial notification from a hospital discharge form, but it was later confirmed by an official notification from the hospital concerned with the case. The patient was a farmer aged 25 years. Initially he complained of a headache but six days later passed into a coma, and he was immediately admitted to hospital. The admittance took place on the 19th September, and he was subsequently discharged on the 8th October after making a complete recovery.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS

It is pleasing to report that no case occurred in the Rural District during 1957.

OUTBREAK OF EPIDEMIC NAUSEA AND VOMITING

A report was received on the 29th August that seven children were absent from Fernyhalgh R.C. School, Broughton, and five of them had been vomiting.

Enquiries were immediately instigated at the Fulwood Central Kitchen supplying the school dinners, at the school itself, and at the homes of the absent pupils. It was elicited that the staff at the Kitchen were all in good health, and no other schools were affected. At the Fernyhalgh school, of the nine children taking a school dinner, two were absent and two had been sick at school; of fifteen pupils who went home for dinner, four were absent and three had been sick, and of seven who brought their lunch and partook of it at school, all were in good health. This information relates to August 28th.

On the 30th August, four of the absentees returned to school, but four other pupils stayed away. This was the extent of the outbreak.

To conclude, the only symptom experienced was vomiting two to three times in quick succession during the night or early morning. There was no abdominal pain, diarrhoea, headache or sore throat. All faeces specimens taken were reported negative.

NOTIFICATIONS. The table below shows the number of infectious and other notifiable diseases notified during the year 1957 after corrections subsequently made either by notifying medical practitioners or by the medical superintendent of the local infectious diseases hospital :

**Notification of Infectious and other Notifiable Diseases (after correction)
for the year ended 31st December, 1957, analysed by age**

Notifiable diseases	Total Cases Notified.											Total Deaths
	Total Cases at all ages.	Age Periods—Years.										
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25 & over	Age unknown	
Scarlet Fever	24			2	3	1	16	1		1	—	
Whooping Cough	45	2	4	4	5	3	24	2	—	1	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis	—											
Paralytic	—											
Non-paralytic	—											
Measles (excluding rubella)	630	6	52	60	65	93	343	6	1	4	—	
Diphtheria	—											
Dysentery	36		2	1		1	2		1	29	—	
Meningococcal Infection	—											
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—									...		
		0-	5	15	45	65 and over	Age unknown					
Acute Pneumonia (prim & infl'zal)	15		2	6	6	1	—	*18				
Smallpox	—											
Acute Encephalitis Infective	—											
Post-infectious	1			1								
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—											
Paratyphoid Fevers	—											
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—					
Food Poisoning	5	—	2	1	—	1	1					
Tuberculosis												
Respiratory	11	—	—	5	5	1	—					
Meninges & C.N.S.	1		1									
Other	4		—	4	—	—	—					
Puerperal Pyrexia	—											

* The death returns disclosed cases of pneumonia of which this Authority had no record before death.

The township distribution of specified notifiable diseases is set out in tabular form for the year 1957, and for comparison the totals for the preceding four years are given :

Townships.	Scarlet Fever		Dysentery		Measles		Whoop'g Cough	
	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.
Barton ...	...	...	...	...	15	..	...	...
Broughton	...	...	...	...	18	..	2	...
Cuerdale	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dutton ...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
Farington	2	...	...	...	14	...	10	...
Goosnargh	6	4	...	...	19	...	2	...
Grimsargh	...	...	...	...	4	...	1	...
Haighton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hothersall	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Hutton	...	...	...	...	38	...	1	...
Lea ...	...	...	...	...	93	...	2	...
Little Hoole	...	...	...	...	30	...	...	...
Longton	...	...	...	...	120	...	13	...
Much Hoole	...	...	...	...	44	...	1	...
Penwortham	9	4	3	...	196	...	7	...
Ribchester	...	...	...	...	17	...	6	...
Samlesbury	2	...	5	...	7	...	...	...
Whittingham	2	2	27	27	2	...	...	...
Woodplumpton	3	1	1	...	9	...	...	...
1957 TOTAL ...	24	11	36	27	630	...	45	...
1956 TOTAL ...	70	36	111	27	368	...	79	1
1955 TOTAL ...	37	22	32	20	315	4	10	...
1954 TOTAL ...	44	30	60	42	123	1	61	...
1953 TOTAL ...	82	48	168	163	389	5	130	1

TUBERCULOSIS

The scheme for the prevention and treatment of Tuberculosis in the administrative County is administered by the Lancashire County Council and the Manchester Regional Hospitals Board respectively.

A number of dispensaries are provided for the diagnosis of the disease, staffed by Chest Physicians and Tuberculosis Health Visitors. These dispensaries work in close association with the Sanatoria, and serve a valuable purpose in the main essence of supervision of patients after their discharge therefrom.

The dispensary for patients residing in the Rural District is situated at 12, Walton's Parade, Preston.

The first table below gives in certain specified age groups the male and female notified cases of respiratory and non-respiratory tuberculosis in the year 1957, together with deaths therefrom.

The second table gives a comparison with the previous five years, but excludes age distribution.

Age Periods. Years	NEW Cases.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
2 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
20 ..	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 ...	2	5	1	1	1	...	...	...
35 ...	4	5	...	2	1	...	...	...
45 ...	4	1	...	...	2	...	...	...
55 ...	9	...	...	...	3	...	1	...
65 ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
75 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	20	15	1	5	7	...	1	...
	35		6		7		1	

YEAR	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1957	20	15	1	5	7	—	1	—
1956	17	12	2	1	6	1	1	—
1955	20	16	4	5	6	1	1	—
1954	16	11	2	2	5	2	—	1
1953	31	15	3	2	5	8	—	—
1952	14	14	7	5	4	1	1	2

The 41 new cases which were notified to the Department during the year could be classified as occurring amongst (1) permanent residents 14, (2) residents of Whittingham Hospital 7, (3) people transferred into the area 20.

Removals from the register numbered 21 ; 2 patients were transferred to other administrative areas, 10 patients died, 8 recovered, and in one case the diagnosis was not confirmed.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

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National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951

Number of applications made during the year	1
Number of Orders made	1

SCHOOLS

The total number of schools in the Rural Area is 35.

Periodical inspections were made during the year for sanitary defects.

A number of defects were found to exist, and these were brought to the notice of the Divisional Education Authority.

NEW LEGISLATION

The following legislation, inter alia, came into force during 1957, except where otherwise stated :

Housing Act, 1957.

National Health Service (Amendment) Act, 1957.

National Insurance Act, 1957 (Appointed day).

National Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1957 (Appointed day).

New Streets Act, 1951 (Amendment) Act, 1957.

Nurses Act, 1957.

Nurses Agencies Act, 1957.

Parish Councils Act, 1957.

Public Health Officers (Deputies) Act, 1957.

Rating and Valuation Act, 1957.

Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Special Provisions) Act, 1957.

Rent Act, 1957.

The Rent Restrictions Regulations, 1957.

Food Hygiene (Amendment) Regulations, 1957 (1st June, 1958).

The Petroleum-spirit (Conveyance by Road) Regulations, 1957.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Activity in the field of food hygiene was more intensive during 1957 compared with the previous year, and altogether 226 visits were made to food premises. Seventy-six informal notices were served under the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, and the following summary gives a general indication of the type of work required and the number of premises involved :

Nature of work	No. of premises
(1) Installation of wash basin with hot and cold water supplies and toilet requisites	69
(2) Installation of sink with hot and cold water supplies and washing utensil requisites	21
(3) Provision of hot water supply to sink or wash basin	6
(4) Repairs and improvements to premises and fixtures	45
(5) Cleansing of premises	24
(6) Provision of adequate ventilation	20
(7) Provision of first-aid equipment	12
(8) Provision of suitable food store	5
(9) Provision of storage accommodation for utensils	3

In addition, 87 visits were made to slaughterhouses for the purpose of meat inspection, and other functions during the year included the sampling of milk and the inspection of dairies.

The following list gives the number of food premises, by type of business, in the district at the end of the year under review :

Type of Business	No.
General grocers and provision dealers	91
Greengrocers and fruiterers (incl. those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	28
Fishmongers (incl. those selling poultry, game, etc.)	1
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	22
Bakers and/or confectioners	33
Fried fish shops	15
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice cream, etc.	37
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments	74
Others	33
Total	334

The number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and Section 14 of the Lancashire County Council's (General Powers) Act, 1951, are as follows:

Type of business	Act	No.
Ice cream	Section 16, F. and D., 1955	107
Preserved food, etc.	ditto.	11
Hawkers' premises	Section 14, L.C.C. Act, 1951	16

One hundred and three of the ice cream premises are used for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice cream manufactured outside the district.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, seven dairies are on the Council's register.

CASES OF FOOD POISONING. The incidence of food poisoning was less than in the previous year, with only five single cases reported. Unfortunately, one of the persons affected died, a female aged 43 years. The patient was taken ill with severe diarrhoea and stomach pains and five days after onset was admitted to hospital, where she died. The organism responsible for the attack was *Salmonella Heidelberg*. The time lapse between onset and notification made it extremely difficult to trace the source of infection. An outbreak of food poisoning occurred about the same time in the area of a neighbouring local authority with the same organism responsible. To try and establish a link between the two, there was a complete exchange of information, but the single case in the Rural District could not be definitely associated with the outbreak in the area of the other local authority. Faeces specimens taken from contacts were all found to be negative.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The following table shows the numbers of certain classes of animals killed in the Rural Area during 1957, together with the number and result of the inspection carried out :

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ...	24	51	4	196	66	...
Number inspected	24	51	4	196	66	...
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	...	..	...	2	1	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	1	44	...	20	6	...
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	4	86	...	11	9	...
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	...	..	..	...	...	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis ... ..	..	...	...	...	1.5	...
Cysticercosis						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ... ..	...	.	...	...	...	.
Generalised and totally con- demned ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...

The unsound carcase meat, approximately 9 cwts. in weight, was burnt at the slaughterhouses.

The amount of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption at shops, etc., was 1 cwt. 11lbs. Wherever possible the food was diverted for animal feeding. The protection of the public in regard to the food which they consume is an important duty of the District Public Health Inspector. Powers exist for food which is not in a sound and wholesome condition to be seized and taken before a magistrate for condemnation. It was not necessary to take such action during 1957 because the purveyors concerned voluntarily surrendered the food which was unfit for human consumption for a certificate issued by the District Public Health Inspector, which enables them to obtain credit from the firm who supplied the food.

SAMPLING—FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Samples were taken by the Sampling Officers of the County Public Health Department, which is the authority responsible for the administration of the Act in this respect. Given below are the particulars of the sampling and the results.

A total of 227 samples was obtained, consisting of 146 samples of milk (including 11 Channel Islands Milks) and 81 samples other than milk, comprising the following :

2 Soup—canned	1 Bicarbonate of soda
8 Lard	2 Cheese
3 Borax	2 Cocoa
3 Arrowroot	3 Fruit—canned
3 Camphorated oil	2 Glycerin B.P.
1 Tincture of iodine	1 Glycerin, lemon and honey pastilles
1 Boric acid powder	2 Flour confectionery
1 Travel sickness tablets	5 Pork sausages
1 Coffee	2 Fish—canned
1 Cooking fat	1 Haliborange tablets
2 Ice cream	1 Vitamin tablets
4 Fruit curd	3 Christmas puddings
2 Sugar	2 Vegetables—dried
4 Liquid paraffin.	1 Vegetables—frozen
1 Demarara sugar	1 Ground ginger
1 Icing sugar	1 Flavouring
1 Caster sugar.	1 White pepper
7 Fruit—fresh	1 British wine
3 Tea	

The samples were submitted for analysis and were reported to be genuine with the exception of those listed below :

<i>Type</i>	<i>Analysis</i>	<i>Action</i>
Milk (I)	Genuine, but contained 1.3 parts by volume of moist dirt of the nature of dung per 100,000 parts of the sample.	Farmer cautioned. County Milk Production Officer notified.
Part bottle of milk	Contained 29 parts by volume of moist dirt of the nature of dung per 100,000 parts of the sample.	

<i>Type</i>	<i>Analysis</i>	<i>Action</i>
Milk (F) (Channel Islands)	Fat 3.95%. Deficient 1.2% of fat.	Vendor notified. Further sample obtained.
Pork sausage	Meat content only 62%. Contained 300 parts per million Sulphite Preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration.	Vendor cautioned re preservative.
Milk (F)	Deficient 18.3% of fat.	} Prosecution. Vendor fined £2 and ordered to pay £5 19s. 0d. costs.
Milk (F)	Deficient 3.0% of fat. (Appeal to cow samples genuine.)	
Pork sausages. (frozen)	Meat content only 52.5%.	No action taken.

PERCENTAGE OF ADULTERATION OF SAMPLES OF FOOD & DRUGS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total No. of samples</i>	<i>No. of adulterated samples</i>	<i>Percentage of adulteration</i>
1953	268	15	5.5
1954	231	14	6.0
1955	210	12	5.7
1956	204	6	2.9
1957	227	7	3.0

Water Supplies

The four major sources of water distribution in this rural area are :

- a. The Preston Corporation.
- b. The Fulwood Urban District Council.
- c. The Fylde Water Board.
- d. The Manchester Corporation (Thirlmere).

These supplies are controlled by both chemical and bacteriological tests, and analyses are periodically made.

The townships south of the Ribble are supplied by the Preston Corporation and Manchester Corporation. North Ribble townships receive Fylde, Fulwood and Preston water.

The here inserted table gives a series of figures indicating the water situation in the several townships. Where houses are not receiving a laid-on supply, the explanation is, the non-supplied premises are situated a very long way from the mains :

Parish	No. of houses newly connected to public mains supply during 1957		From Public Mains				From Private Supplies, <i>e.g.</i> wells, springs, etc.	
			Direct to houses		By means of standpipe			
	Existing houses	New houses	No. of dwelling houses	Estimtd. No. of population	No. of dwelling houses	Estimated No. of population	No. of dwelling houses	Estimated No. of population
Barton	4	366	1139	...	...	8	25
Broughton	2	175	560	...	...	...	...
Cuerdale	10	38	...	...	...	...
Dutton	17	54	...	...	45	144
Farington	8	1413	4310	...	...	...	...
Goosnargh ...	25	1	259	823	...	...	48	144
Grimsargh	246	805	...	...	...	...
Haighton	64	203	...	...	4	14
Hothersall	1	40	124	...	...	4	14
Hutton	5	452	1387	...	...	...	...
Lea	11	1005	3095	...	...	4	14
Little Hoole	221	689	...	...	...	...
Longton	19	1212	3786	...	...	...	...
Much Hoole	2	230	694	...	...	2	6
Penwortham	205	4366	13050	...	...	...	...
Ribchester	1	418	1323	...	...	37	118
Samlesbury	3	344	1094	...	...	17	60
Whittingham...	...	2	434	4449	...	...	44	132
Woodplumpton	...	3	471	1699	...	...	46	147
TOTAL Whole District	25	267	11743	39322	...	...	259	818

Submitted below is a table showing water consumption per head of population per day over the past two years in the different supply areas.

Area of Supply				Sept. 1955	March 1956	Sept. 1956	March 1957	Sept. 1957
				<i>Galls.</i>	<i>Galls.</i>	<i>Galls.</i>	<i>Galls.</i>	<i>Galls.</i>
Longton & Penwortham	...			36.72	42.48	43.44	43.09	45.08
Farington	...	...	...	49.16	44.53	43.54	45.19	44.80
Lea	...	...	...	32.54	34.92	37.45	38.02	31.61
Samlesbury	...	...	...	42.42	40.76	69.27	51.95	56.68
Ribchester & Hothersall	...			32.44	30.06	32.37	35.56	32.19

The number of dwelling houses with piped supplies direct from mains is now 11,743.

The approximate number of dwelling houses without a piped supply direct from mains is 259.

Parts of the townships of Goosnargh and Dutton are without a piped supply, but steps are being taken to remedy this, and 25 houses in Goosnargh were connected to the public water main during 1957.

Population supplied from public water main direct to houses is approximately 39,322 of a population of 40,140.

ANALYSES OF WATER SUPPLIES

Water is purchased in bulk from the Preston and Manchester Corporations, and supplied direct by the Fylde Water Board and Fulwood Urban District Council. Results of examinations of water supplies are received each year from these Undertakings, and they are consistently satisfactory. However, during the period under review, bacteriological samples of water were taken by the District Public Health Inspectors in the area of supply related to water taken in bulk from the Thirlmere Aqueduct and some of the samples had a high coliform count, and were considered by the Analyst to be unsatisfactory. The unsatisfactory samples were taken following heavy rain. The matter was reported to the Council with a view to chlorination plant being installed, and the question was under consideration at the end of the year.

Housing

Each year since 1952 a review has been carried out of all applicants for accommodation on the Council's housing list, and the one for 1957 disclosed that only 204 applicants now wish to remain on the list. The figure for 1956 was 442. This is the largest yearly reduction yet recorded, and it quite clearly signifies the end of the general needs housing problem in the Rural District, as the small demand that exists can be met by annual voids which are now at the rate of 6% of occupied houses. During the year under review, 88 families were rehoused in new Council houses and 69 in existing houses which became vacant. Altogether 1,143 houses and flats have been built by the Council since 1945. In addition, 1,580 other houses have been erected, principally by the combined effort of private contractors, a housing association, the Ministry of Works, the Lancashire County Council, and the Manchester Regional Hospitals Board. The number of houses under construction at the end of the year comprised 52 Council houses, 9 houses for the Lancashire County Council, and 136 for private contractors. The Council contemplate the erection of a further 98 houses and flats during the coming year, and the Lancashire County Council plan to build a further 24 houses for police purposes, and building operations are scheduled to commence on a further 125 houses on estates under development by private contractors. The Council's 1958 programme of housing development comprises 50 houses for overspill purposes, 20 houses for slum clearance purposes, and 28 bungalows with certain communal facilities and warden's accommodation for aged persons. There are many elderly people requiring care and attention who would on no account enter hostel accommodation because they still regard it as institutional, and it is such people who will derive benefit from the Council's progressive policy of providing the type of accommodation to which previous reference has been made.

As regards the Council's provisional slum clearance programme, a good start was made on a detailed survey of the property included, and altogether action was taken on some 60 houses during the year by way of detailed reports submitted to the Council for consideration, and statutory action was taken in 36 cases.

THE RENT ACT, 1957. This Act came into operation on the 6th July, 1957, and had the general objective of enabling rented houses and flats to be put and kept in repair, of increasing the total stock of rented accommodation, of securing a better use of existing housing accommodation, and of making a beginning on the restoration of a free market in rented houses. The Minister in the circular accompanying the Act asked local authorities to do all that they could to assist people affected by the Act in their areas. The department dealt with an avalanche of enquiries over a period of many weeks, and the people concerned were made fully aware of their position under the provisions of the Act. This had the effect in many cases of reducing the friction which existed between landlord and tenant.

THE HOUSING ACT, 1957. This Act came into operation on the 1st September, 1957, and, generally speaking, it consolidates all the existing legislation dealing with the repair, reconstruction, closing and demolition of private houses.

HOUSING PROGRESS

1945 to 1957

The following Tables show (1) schemes completed, (2) schemes in progress, and (3) schemes contemplated :

(1)

Scheme	No. of houses
Penwortham and Farington	22
Woodplumpton	16
Lea	40
Woodville Street, Farington	12
School Street, Farington	10
Penwortham	52
Barton	40
Samlesbury	16
Grimsargh	22
Woodplumpton	8
Little Hoole	24
Much Hoole	24
Goosnargh	28
Longton	29
Ribchester	22
Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—1st Contract	80
New Longton	36
Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—2nd Contract	38
Coote Lane, Farington—1st Contract	18
Airey Rural Houses	84
Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—3rd Contract	36
Nabs Head Lane, Samlesbury	30
Stanifield Lane, Farington	28
Kingsfold Estate, Penworth—1st Contract	50
Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—2nd Contract	50
Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—4th Contract	80
Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—3rd Contract	54
Coote Lane, Farington—2nd Contract	106
Studholme Estate, Penwortham—1st Contract	76
Total	1,131

(2)

	Completed	Houses Under Construction	Not yet Started
Studholme Estate, Penwortham—2nd Contract	12	46	—
Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—4th Contract	—	54	—
Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—Shops and Flats	—	6	—

(3)

	No. of houses
Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—5th Contract	50
Studholme Estate, Penwortham—3rd Contract	28
Sites in the Parishes of Longton and Woodplumpton	20

OVERSPILL

As part of the general Development Area for Penwortham, some 258 houses will be built in the initial phase. These houses will accommodate overspill population from the Preston C.B. 154 houses have already been completed, 54 houses are under construction, and 50 houses are contemplated for 1958. Long-term overspill commitments amount to a further 427 houses.

OTHER HOUSING

In addition to Council houses, houses have been constructed by the Lancashire County Council, Ministry of Works, Kingsway Housing Association (formed by The English Electric Co.), Manchester Regional Hospitals Board, and Private Builders.

As far as other housing is concerned, the position at the 31st December, 1957, was as follows :

Constructed by	Houses		
	Completed	Under Construction	Not yet Started
Lancashire County Council	91	9	24
Ministry of Works	208	—	—
Kingsway Housing Association	250	—	—
Blackburn C.B.	2	—	—
Preston C.B.	1	—	—
Manchester Regional Hospitals Board	15	—	—
Private Builders	1013	136	125
	1580	145	149

SLUM CLEARANCE

Eighty-two houses have been demolished since 1945: 59 formally and 23 informally. Undertakings have been accepted in the case of 29 houses; in 13 instances, that the premises would not again be used for human habitation, and in 16 instances, the premises to be reconstructed. Nine houses are officially scheduled for demolition, but action is deferred until the time is opportune to re-house the tenants. Two clearance orders comprising nine houses and one business premises were confirmed during 1957. In addition, 26 demolition orders were made, and 29 displaced persons were re-housed by the Council. Fifty-eight houses are being built by the Council for re-housing displaced persons in the first phase under the Council's provisional slum clearance programme, and 12 houses were occupied at the end of the year. A further 20 houses are to be built on sites in the parishes of Longton and Woodplumpton.

Forty houses were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation and action was as follows :

Repairs during the year

- (a) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action under the Housing and Public Health Acts

38

(b) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit following formal action under the Public Health Acts :	
(i) By owners	1
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(c) Housing Acts—action after service of formal notice. Houses made fit :	
(i) By owners	2
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(d) Housing Act, 1957—Section 24. Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and demolition orders revoked	Nil

Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1957—Section 42).

(1) No. of dwelling houses demolished during year :	
(a) Unfit houses	Nil
(b) Other houses	Nil

Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Acts) :

(1) No. of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7, Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954	Nil
(2) No. of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 34, Housing Act, 1957)	Nil

Housing Act, 1949—Improvement grants.

Number of schemes submitted :

(a) By Local Authority to Ministry	Nil
(b) By private individuals to Local Authority	14

Number of dwelling houses or other buildings affected 16

Work completed 5

Additional separate dwellings included in the completed schemes Nil.

Sewage Disposal

There are outfall works in six townships, viz : Farington, Penwortham, Lea, Ribchester, Grimsargh and Broughton. In other parishes a septic tank is provided for each house, or alternatively a small sewage purification plant is installed for a group of houses.

Schemes have been prepared for several unsewered areas, and the present position with regard to them is outlined in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report.

The here inserted table gives a series of figures indicating the sewage situation in the several parishes.

Parish	Connected to Public Sewer		Septic Tank, etc.	
	No. of Dwelling houses	No. of Population	No. of Dwelling houses	No. of Population
Barton ...	70	231	304	933
Broughton ...	51	170	124	390
Cuerdale ...	...	...	10	38
Dutton ...	...	...	62	198
Farington ...	1182	3505	231	805
Goosnargh ...	...	...	307	967
Grimsargh ...	203	665	43	140
Haighton ...	...	...	68	217
Hothersall ...	...	...	44	138
Hutton ...	...	...	452	1387
Lea ...	394	1200	615	1909
Little Hoole ...	...	...	221	689
Longton ...	...	...	1212	3786
Much Hoole ...	...	...	232	700
Penwortham ...	4351	13003	15	47
Ribchester ...	308	1000	147	441
Samlesbury ...	51	160	310	994
Whittingham ...	...	..	478	4581
Woodplumpton ...	...	..	517	1846
TOTAL Whole District	6610	19934	5392	20206

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1957, for the Rural District of Preston in the County of Lancaster

Most of the factories in the Rural Area are of a small character, and chiefly consist of those relating to Motor Car Repairs and Confectionery. There are, however, four Cotton Mills, two Paper Mills, two Iron Foundries, and a Ministry of Supply Tank Factory.

Defects found to exist related to Sanitary Conveniences. Working conditions generally were good.

As regards the remedying of defects, four written notices were served on the occupiers of the factories concerned, which resulted in the necessary work being carried out.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937 Part 1 of the Act

1—INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	3	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	110	47	4	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	18	10	—	—
TOTAL ...	131	57	4	—

2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	4	4	—	—	—

Part VIII—Sections 110 and 111

Number of Outworkers in August List required by Section 110 (1) (c), 5 Wearing Apparel (making, etc.)

J. WALKER,

August, 1958.

Medical Officer of Health.

Chief Public Health Inspector's Report

To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to submit for your consideration the Annual Report on the work of the Department during the year 1957.

The number of visits made by the District Public Health Inspectors amounted to 2,426. If the categorised visits included in the report are examined, it will be seen that visits related to the inspection of dwelling houses under the Housing Acts, including visits concerned with improvement grant applications and applications for housing accommodation, comprised almost one-third of the total. Despite this concentration on housing problems, work in connection with food premises, meat inspection and infectious diseases was also considerable. More time was devoted to routine milk sampling and the routine inspection of factories and shops, and a fairly large number of visits had to be made to deal with the problem of illicit parking of caravans in the Rural District.

There are one or two other matters with which I would like to deal :

(1) UNSEWERED AREAS

The progress made on the various schemes of sewerage included the commencement of work on the Grimsargh scheme and phase 1 of the Longton and district scheme, including the sewage disposal works. Considerable progress was made on the Grimsargh scheme despite the fact that the work was postponed towards the end of the year because of bad ground and waterlogged condition of the trenches. Other progress included a continuance of the work on the joint valley sewer, and the re-designing of the Barton, Broughton and Goosnargh scheme to include parts of the parishes of Bilsborrow and Myerscough in the Garstang R.D.

(2) WATER SUPPLY

The Fylde Water Board, after completing the Inglewhite section of the Goosnargh scheme during 1956, proceeded with the Whitechapel section, and by the end of the year a total of 69 inhabited houses had been connected in the Goosnargh area along with other miscellaneous connections. The scheme to boost the supply to the Drumacre Lane-Gill Lane area of the parish of Longton was completed, and with regard to the Littletown area of the parish of Ribchester, work on the necessary main extension will commence in 1958.

(3) RODENT CONTROL

Altogether 5,328 visits were made by the rodent operatives, the bulk of the inspection work being related to agricultural land. The result of frequent visits was to make the occupier of agricultural land acutely conscious of the need for constant treatment, and towards the end of the year an ever-increasing number of people were using warfarin with satisfactory results, as the number of infestations being recorded showed a marked decline.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued confidence, and the staff of the Department for their willing co-operation at all times.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Department during the year :

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S VISITS

Inspection of dwelling houses	293
Insanitary drainage	133
Fouled watercourses	88
Middens	6
Dirty condition of premises	12
Other visits relating to nuisances	23
Infectious disease	185
Verminous premises and persons	2
National Assistance Act	8
Milk and Dairies	93
Food premises	226
Shops	102
Factories	57
Caravans	139
Schools	2
Hotels, Inns, etc.	17
Ice-cream premises	55
Hawkers	14
Rodent control	10
Drain testing	81
Smoke observations	3
Closet conversions	33
Pet Animals Act	1
Petroleum Act	28
Water supply	59
Slaughterhouse and Knacker's Yard	87
Anthrax	1
Swine Fever	1
Housing applications	161
Housing Act, 1949—Improvement Grants	294
Other visits	212
	<hr/>
	2,426
	<hr/>

NOTICES

Informal	91
Formal	17

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disinfection was carried out in the following cases of infectious disease :

Scarlet Fever	2
Tuberculosis Removals	1

To conclude, 185 visits were made relating to Infectious Disease, including visits in connection with cases of food poisoning and Sonne dysentery.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

At the end of 1957 the following position existed in the Rural District as regards sanitary conveniences belonging to inhabited houses :

No. of Fresh Water Closets	10,479
No. of Waste Water Closets	196
No. of Pail Closets	1,177
No. of Privy Middens	150
No. of Movable Ashbins	11,109

The old bog closets and pail closets exist mainly in the outlying parishes and in the small scattered areas.

The following conversions took place, and new sanitary accommodation was provided during 1957 :

No. of Pail Closets to Fresh W.C.s	8
No. of Waste Water Closets to Fresh W.C.s	20

OTHER SANITARY DEFECTS DEALT WITH

Dampness	23
Defective Ceilings	7
Defective Closet Pails	2
Defective Closet Structures	1
Defective Doors	9
Defective Floors	8
Defective Gutters	12
Defective Paving	7
Defective Downspouts	6
Defective Roofs	14
Defective Pointing	7
Defective Walls	10
Defective Brickwork	5
Defective W.C.s	5
Defective Windows	22
Defective Woodwork	6
Defective Fire Ranges	10
Absence of Washing Facilities	1
Insanitary Drainage	133
Fouled Watercourses	88
Dirty Condition of Premises	12
Middens	6
Defective Sink Waste Pipes	6
Defective Sinks	7
Want of Ash Bins	1

CLEANSING

Once again, it must be repeated that the overall labour situation was far from satisfactory, and only by reason of the Council's foresight in forming a reserve team during the previous year was serious dislocation of the service avoided during 1957. By reason of the reserve team, the establishment per vehicle was maintained for 37 weeks out of the 52. The shortage of labour, however, was not

the only adverse factor. The continual influx of new men lacking interest in the work and possessing little or no knowledge of the district contributed to the numerous difficulties which beset the service during the period under review.

Altogether, 11,109 houses were cleared, and ten waggons were employed for the purpose. One new diesel refuse collector was brought into service as part of the gradual process of forming an entire fleet of diesel vehicles. Disposal was by means of controlled tipping. Four tips were in operation, and full-time tipmen were employed.

The work is carried out by direct labour, and the following table shows the amount of work done by the motor refuse vehicles from January 1st to December 31st, 1957 :

Vehicle	Type	Mileage	Petrol or Diesel (galls)	Oil (quarts)	Loads (number)	Estimated weight of refuse in tons	Miles per gallon
G.C.K.226	Fordson	5686	713	49	657	1365	7.96
C.C.K.178	Ford	10372	1341	38	478	608	7.73
C.R.N.663	Fordson	1131	217	44	101	216	5.21
D.C.K.893	Fordson	8550	1251	154	621	1320	6.83
E.R.N.987	Fordson	5591	999	95	713	1470	5.59
G.R.N.212 (diesel)	Fordson	9449	596	38	677	1401	15.85
J.C.K.73 (diesel)	Fordson	10768	536	28	602	1249	20.08
J.R.N.713 (diesel)	Fordson	4649	360	12	772	1653	12.91
J.R.N.816 (diesel)	Fordson	5149	403	8	997	2123	12.77
K.R.N.758 (diesel)	Fordson	3048	180	1	231	484	16.90
TOTALS		64393	6596	467	6149	11889	9.76

SALVAGE

The following table analyses the weight and cash value of materials salvaged during the year 1957 :

Materials	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Mixed Paper	296	8	2	—	2232	2	10
Rags	7	3	3	—	179	13	7
Carpets	6	12	—	12	39	12	7
String	—	6	—	18	1	16	11
Aluminium	—	11	1	16	53	3	4
Lead	—	1	1	6	4	14	3
Braziery, Copper	—	3	3	27	34	6	7
Mixed Brass	—	3	1	10	13	19	6
Mixed Metals	—	6	1	6	23	10	8
Light Scrap	17	3	2	—	82	12	3
Heavy and Medium Scrap	1	12	—	—	10	0	0
Tin and Galvanised Scrap	2	3	—	—	7	4	9
Tins	40	4	—	—	211	0	10
Fibreboard Containers	3	—	3	—	23	18	7
Tins—financial assistance	—	—	—	—	40	4	0
Totals	376	—	—	11	£2,958	0	8

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

There are 131 factories on the register, and their condition is satisfactory. Fifty-seven inspections were made, and four notices served.

BAKEHOUSES

There are 20 bakehouses on the register. Frequent visits are made to these places, and they are on the whole kept clean.

CANAL BOATS

There have been no inspections carried out during the year.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND INSPECTIONS

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954.

Thirty-seven licences for Slaughtermen were issued.

There is one licensed Slaughterhouse and one licensed Knacker's Yard in the district. The premises are frequently visited, and where advice has been tendered the response has been immediate.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The Lancashire River Board has jurisdiction in regard to river and stream pollution over the whole of the rural area.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There are outfall works in six townships, viz : Farington, Penwortham, Lea, Ribchester, Grimsargh and Broughton. Two hundred and seventeen new houses and six existing houses were connected to the sewerage system during the year.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936 to 1957

The under-mentioned properties have been dealt with during the year :

Houses on which demolition orders were made :

Nos. 1 and 2, Lodge Cottages, Newsham Lane, Woodplumpton.

Little New House Farm, Croston Road, Farington.

Nos. 75, 77, 79 and 81, Pop Lane, Penwortham.

Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Parker Street, Lostock Hall.

No. 7, Post Office Row, off Leyland Road, Penwortham.

Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Old Row, Pope Lane, Hutton.

Lane Ends Farm, Liverpool Road, Hutton.

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, Strickland's Cottages, Liverpool Road, Penwortham.

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, Marsh Lane, Longton.

Houses included in Clearance Orders :

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, Post Office Row, off Leyland Road, Penwortham.

Nos. 121, 123, 125 and 127, Pope Lane, Penwortham.

Houses demolished informally :

Nos. 52, 54, 56, 58 and 60, Liverpool Road, Penwortham.
Two cottages, Samlesbury Bottoms, owned by the Samlesbury Paper Mill Co.

Undertakings accepted :

(i) Reconstruction

Nos. 1 and 2, Lane End Cottages, Hothersall.
Kitty's Cottage, Chapel Lane, Longton.

(ii) Not to be used for human habitation

Moss Nook, Grimsargh.

Houses on which closing orders were made :

No. 41, Liverpool Road, Penwortham.

Houses in respect of which improvement grants were made :

Longfield, Tag Lane, Ingol.
Fog Hey, Mill Lane, Goosnargh.
Willow Cottage, Inglewhite.
Chapel House, Inglewhite.
Higher Five Barred Gate Farm, Inglewhite.
Sunnyside, Whittle Hill, Woodplumpton.
Pair of cottages known as "Brooklyn Cottages," Barton House Lane, Barton.
No. 5, Longsight Terrace, Grimsargh.
Nos. 1 and 2, Station Cottages, Station Lane, Barton.
No. 2, Singleton's Cottage, Liverpool Road, Penwortham.
No. 16, Rawstorne Road, Penwortham.
No. 420, Leyland Road, Penwortham.
No. 1, Castle Fold, Penwortham.

SLUM CLEARANCE

Action taken with regard to the administration of the Housing Act, 1936.

The following table shows action taken in the various Parishes in the Rural District with regard to slum clearance from 1945 to 1957 inclusive :

PARISH.			HOUSES.						
			Demolished.		Undertakings accepted following formal action.		Voluntary action by owners.		Scheduled for demolition
			<i>Form-ally.</i>	<i>Inform-ally.</i>	<i>Not to be used for human habitation.</i>	<i>Re-construction</i>	<i>Re-construction or conversion to other use</i>	<i>Not to be used for human habitation.</i>	
Barton	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Broughton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cuerdale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dutton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Farington	...	...	13	3	...	1	...	...	...
Goosnargh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grimsargh	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Haighton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hothersall	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Hutton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lea	...	...	6	2	1	1	...	...	...
Little Hoole	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Longton	...	...	...	3	3	4	...	...	2
Much Hoole	...	...	3	...	...	2	...	1	3
Penwortham	...	...	23	7	3	2	2	...	...
Ribchester	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	1
Samlesbury	...	...	3	3	...	1	...	...	...
Whittingham...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Woodplumpton	...	...	7	4	4	2	...	...	1
TOTALS	...	...	59	23	13	16	2	1	9

RENT ACT, 1957

Part II of the First Schedule :

No. of applications for certificates of disrepair	=	33
No. of certificates issued	=	21
No. of Undertakings given by Landlords to remedy defects	=	6
No. of applications in which the defects were remedied immediately after local authority notice	=	4
No. of applications withdrawn	=	2
No. of certificates of disrepair revoked	=	1

PETROLEUM ACTS

No. of new licences granted for storing petrol during the year—5.

No. of renewal licences granted during the year—100.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES, ETC.

There are no common lodging houses or houses let in lodgings on the Register.

CARAVANS

There were numerous instances of illicit parking of caravans on individual sites, and great difficulty was experienced in trying to clear them. The situation was aggravated by the influx of workmen employed by contractors engaged on the Preston and Longton by-pass roads, a number of whom brought caravans with them, and parked them on land belonging to local farmers. Altogether, 139 visits were made to caravan sites during the year.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

During the period under review, the District Council continued to carry out, on behalf of the Lancashire County Council, all the inspectorial duties required under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950, including those duties under Section 38.

Two hundred and eight-two shops were on the register at the end of the year, and 102 of them were inspected during 1957 under the delegated scheme, and all the shops so inspected were found to comply with the provisions of the Act, and reports were sent to the Lancashire County Council.

RAG FLOCK ACTS

There are no premises in the district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

No consent has been given by the Local Authority for the establishment of any offensive trade in the Rural Area.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

The provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956, still to come into force include sections 1 and 2, which, with certain exceptions, prohibit the emission of dark smoke from chimneys ; sections 5 to 9, which regulate the discharge of grit and dust from furnaces ; section 16, which provides new powers for dealing with smoke nuisances ; and sections 19 and 20, which prohibit dark smoke from railway engines and ships respectively. At the end of the year under review the necessary Order bringing these provisions into force had not been made, but it was received early in 1958 under the title " The Clean Air Act, 1956 (Appointed Day) Order, 1958 " and it fixes June 1st, 1958, as the date of operation of all those provisions of the Act which are not already in force.

Three visits were made to investigate complaints of smoke nuisance during the year, and informal action resulted in the abatement of the nuisances.

ANTHRAX

One case at Goosnargh occurred during the year. The premises were visited and the burning of the carcase and disinfection under police supervision were found to have been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

SWINE FEVER

One case at Ribchester occurred during the year. The premises were visited and the burning of the carcase and disinfection under police supervision were found to have been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

In addition, notices were received placing the following premises under movement restrictions :

South View, Miller Lane, Cottam.
Oak Bank Farm, Ribchester.
Church Hill Farm, Broughton.
Little Plane Tree Farm, Whitechapel.
Willow Bridge Farm, Roots Lane, Catforth.
Lower Alston Farm, Ribchester.
White Cross Inn, New Drop, Ribchester.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

Notices were received prohibiting the movement of animals at the under-mentioned premises :

Sherdley Farm, Farington.
Middleforth Hall Farm, Penwortham.
Green Lane Farm, Barton.
Newfield Farm, Goosnargh.
Inglewhite Lodge Farm, Goosnargh.
Mayor Farm, Bartle.
Rolling Pin Farm, Lewth, Woodplumpton.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk supply—action taken with regard to :

The administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations, and the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

At the 31st December, 1957, there were 63 registered milk distributors in the area, operating from :

(a) dairies in the district	26
(b) premises outside the district	12
(c) shops in the district other than dairies	25

The number of dairies on the register was seven. Four visits were made to dairies, and generally the standard was found to be satisfactory.

In addition, and as far as unofficial records show, there were 98 producer-retailers operating in the Rural Area.

The following dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) have been issued during the period under review :

(i) The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

Tuberculin Tested Milk	46
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(ii) The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949

Pasteurised Milk	48
Sterilised Milk	39

There was no refusal or revocation of a licence for graded milk during the year.

MILK SAMPLING

Forty-four samples were taken for the Bacterial and Methylene Blue Reductase tests with the following results :

Satisfactory	42
Unsatisfactory	2

Twenty-five samples were taken in the district for the presence of tubercle bacilli with the following results :

Negative	25
----------------	----

Eighteen samples of pasteurised milk were taken and subjected to the Phosphatase test with the following results :

Sufficiently heat treated	17
Insufficiently heat treated	1

One sample of sterilised milk was taken and subjected to the Turbidity test with the following result :

Satisfactory	1
--------------------	---

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1938

Given below are the results of investigations carried out by the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food within the Rural District during the year arising from notifications of tuberculosis milk made by two other local authorities :

No. of herds examined by veterinary inspectors	2
No. of cases where animals were seized under the Order	1
No. of animals seized	1
No. of cases reported negative where animals had been sold prior to the investigation	1
No. of cases reported negative, no animals seized	Nil

FOOD PREMISES

226 visits were made to food premises during the year, and 76 informal notices were served on occupiers concerned to carry out necessary alterations, etc., under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

The total number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is 118. One hundred and seven of these premises are registered for the manufacture and sale or storage and sale of ice cream. This figure includes two new registrations during the year. One hundred and three retailers sell loose or pre-packed ice cream manufactured outside the district.

SAMPLING OF ICE CREAM

One sample of ice cream was taken and submitted to bacteriological tests. As a result of the tests, the sample was placed in the following grade :

Grade I satisfactory

Every endeavour was made by visits, advice and admonition to encourage the production of a clean and satisfactory product.

HAWKERS

Hawkers of Meat, or Meat Food Products, Fish, Fruit and Vegetables, and their premises situate in the Rural Area, are registered under Section 14 of the Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951.

No. of registered hawkers	29
No. of registered premises	17

The following is a summary of the Foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year :

Description	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Corned Beef	—	—	1	4	—
Frozen Beef	—	—	2	11	—
Boneless Cooked Ham	—	—	—	13	—
Pork	—	—	—	10	—
Lemon Cheese	—	—	—	1	—
Total	—	1	—	11	—

Wherever possible, the condemned foodstuff contained in the above schedule was diverted to animal feeding.

In addition, the following carcasses of animals were inspected :

Cattle (excluding cows)	24
Cows	51
Calves	4
Pigs	66
Sheep and Lambs	196

and the following was condemned as unfit for human consumption :

44 cows' livers for distomatosis ;
 20 sheep livers for distomatosis ;
 2 pigs' kidneys for abscess ;
 1 beast's liver for distomatosis ;
 2 sheep carcasses and organs for œdema ;
 1 part foreleg and shoulder of pork for bruising ;
 1 pig's liver for cirrhosis ;
 1 pig's carcase and organs for septicæmia ;
 1 pig's pluck for inflammation ;
 1 pig's head for tuberculosis ;
 1 pig's pluck for tuberculosis ;
 1 pig's liver for tuberculosis.

Approximate total weight of meat condemned : 9 cwt.

PARKS AND PLAYING FIELDS

The following schedule gives the Playing Fields provided in the Rural District and an indication of the area in each field available for games :

Situation	Whole area	Area for games	Area let off for Grazing	Area let off for Ploughing
Barton	5	5	—	—
Broughton	5	5	—	—
Church Wood, Penwortham	4½	4½	—	—
Farington	10½	5½	5	—
Goosnargh	4½	4½	—	—
Grimsargh	12	12	—	—
Hurst Grange, Penwortham	16½	12	4½	—
Hutton	7	7	—	—
Lea	16½	4	12½	—
Little Hoole	4	4	—	—
Longton	6	6	—	—
Much Hoole	5	5	—	—
New Longton	9	9	—	—
Queensway, Penwortham	5	5	—	—
Penwortham Hall	18½	12½	6	—
Tardy Gate	5½	5½	—	—
Woodplumpton	6½	2½	4	—
Totals	141	109	32	—

The work of the Department during the period under review included, in addition to a great deal of maintenance work, the mowing of grass verges on the Council's Housing Estates.

RODENT REPORT

STAFF

During the year three rodent operatives were employed.

SEWERS

The whole of the sewerage system of the district was test baited in May, when 10 per cent. of the manholes on the main sewerage system were baited with sausage rusk. There was evidence of infestation in the parish of Farington, and pre-baiting and poison baiting was carried out, followed, after an interval of six months, by maintenance treatment.

SEWAGE WORKS

The Council's Sewage Works at Penwortham, Grimsargh, Lea, Ribchester and Farington were treated periodically, and infestation kept down to a minor level.

TIPS

The Council's refuse tips at Barton, Longton, Ribchester and Penwortham were also treated periodically with excellent results, but though minor infestation only now exists, regular visits will be made to these tips in the coming year, and any signs of infestation dealt with accordingly.

BAIT

The bait used was sausage rusk and stale bread mash.

POISONS

The poisons used were Zinc Phosphide, Arsenic, and Warfarin.

As reported last year, the Council established their own control over agricultural land as required by the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, and for the purpose two rodent operatives and a van were employed. The intention was to survey all agricultural land at least twice per year, but during 1957 at least three visits were made to each unit. Towards the end of the year the number of infestations being recorded dropped significantly, and this could be attributed to the rodent operatives continually impressing upon occupiers the need to carry out their own treatment as soon as evidence of infestation was seen. As the year progressed, their reports disclosed an ever-increasing number of people either using warfarin or under contract to the Lancashire Agricultural Executive Committee.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. COLLIER,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

PREMISES AND INFESTATION.

Type of Property	(I) Total No. of Properties	(II) No. of Properties inspected during 1957 as a result of :			(III) No. of Properties found to be infested with rats (under (II))		(IV) No. of Prop- erties under (II) found to be seriously infested by mice.	(V) No. of infes- ted Properties under (III) & (IV) treated by L.A.	(VI) No. of notices served under Section 4 for :	
		NOTIFI- CATION	SURVEY	OTHER- WISE	MAJOR	MINOR			TREATMENT	STRUCTURAL WORKS, ie. PROOFING
Local Authority ...	7	...	7	...	4	3	...	7	...	...
Dwelling Houses ...	10949	17	1073	...	...	.	1	1	...	...
Agricultural ...	1050	...	1050	...	1	76	6	55	2	..
All other (including Business & Industrial.	450	5	219	...	...	6	2	8	...	...
Totals ...	12456	22	2349	...	5	85	9	71	2	...

No. of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following
 issue of notice under Section 4 None
 Legal Proceedings None
 No. of "block" control schemes carried out None

Five of the major type were reduced to minor and re-treatment is to be made.
 Eighty-five of the minor type were cleared, and no post baits were taken. (See
 Table—Column III.)

The house-to-house search instituted in accordance with instructions received
 from the Divisional Rodent Officer was continued throughout the year in all
 Parishes.

Altogether, 5,328 inspections, including re-inspections, were made of the various
 types of property during 1957.

Report of Building Surveyor

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting a Report on the buildings dealt with during the year 1957.

The table shows the number and situation of new houses which were erected :

Parish					Dwelling houses erected
Barton ...	...	...	...	...	4
Broughton	...	..	...	...	2
Farington	...	...	...	...	8
Goosnargh	...	...	...	..	1
Hothersall	...	...	...	...	1
Hutton...	...	...	...	...	5
Lea ...	...	...	...	...	11
Longton	...	...	...	...	19
Much Hoole	...	...	...	...	2
Penwortham	...	...	...	...	205
Ribchester	...	...	...	...	1
Samlesbury	...	...	...	...	3
Whittingham	...	...	...	...	2
Woodplumpton	...	...	...	...	3
TOTAL...					267

The following visits have been made in connection with the erection of houses by private enterprise :

Inspection of Site	219
Inspection of Foundations	328
Inspection of Drainage	491
Inspection on Completion	340

In addition, 1,889 visits were made to the Council's Housing Estates, and there were 597 miscellaneous visits.

TOWN PLANNING

The Lancashire County Council is the Local Planning Authority for the Rural District, and under delegated powers, 687 applications to develop were received. Of these, 233 applications were classified as permitted development under Town Planning.

The Council considered these applications with the following results :

Permissions granted	592
Refused	85
Deferred	1
Withdrawn	9

H. COLLIER,

Building Surveyor.

Report on Water Supply

To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council

Gentlemen,

This report is a continuation of the report submitted by the Medical Officer of Health, and deals solely with the work of the Department during the year 1957.

The number of connections shows an increase, as does the number of extensions, compared with the preceding year—this you will notice by the following figures :

Connections	1956	250
Connections	1957	266
Extensions of mains	1956	2975 yds.
Extensions of mains	1957	3216 yds.

The following table shows the connections made in the various Parishes during the year :

Parish	Houses	Lime Taps	Troughs	Standpipes
Farington	8	—	—	—
Hutton	5	—	2	—
Lea	11	—	—	—
Little Hoole	—	2	—	—
Longton	19	—	1	—
Much Hoole	2	—	—	—
Penwortham	205	1	—	1
Ribchester	1	2	—	—
Samlesbury	3	1	2	—
Total	254	6	5	1

Extensions to Water Mains for the year are as follows :

Parish	2"	3"	4"	5"
		<i>Yds.</i>		
Farington	45	...	...	...
Hutton	26	166	...	...
Lea ... ..	...	12	...	.
Longton	126	399	75	...
Penwortham	254	1913	...	...
Ribchester ... ..	...	18	...	...
Samlesbury ... ..	...	182	...	...
Totals	451	2690	75	...

In addition, routine maintenance of the Undertaking was carried out, and the following general summary gives a brief idea of the work entailed :

No. of taps re-washed	205
No. of Service Pipes repaired	39
No. of Mains repaired	77
No. of Ball Hydrants repaired	3
No. of Ball Hydrants converted to Valve Hydrants	10
No. of new Hydrants installed	12
No. of Meters changed	69
No. of Ferrules cleaned	22
No. of Visits to Consumers' Premises	111

Further, despite labour difficulties, regular flushing was carried out in every Parish served by the Undertaking. In addition, test surveys for bursts were carried out in the Parishes of Farington, Lea, Penwortham, Ribchester and Samlesbury.

Numerous incidental jobs were carried out on the Council's Housing Estates.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. COLLIER,

Water Engineer.

